# Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services Richmond, Virginia

#### **Patient Instructions for Stool Collection**

### **Stool collection kit contents:**

- Three (3) 8 x 10 plastic biohazard sample bags
- One (1)-Tube with red liquid
- One (1) Empty cup
- One (1) Disposable scoop

- One (1)- DCLS submission form
- One (1) Collection instruction form
- One (1) Paper stool collection device
- Two (2) Tube labels

### **Collecting the Stool Samples:** (See back of this page for pictures)

1. Fill out the following sections of the DCLS Clinical Microbiology/Virology Request Form:

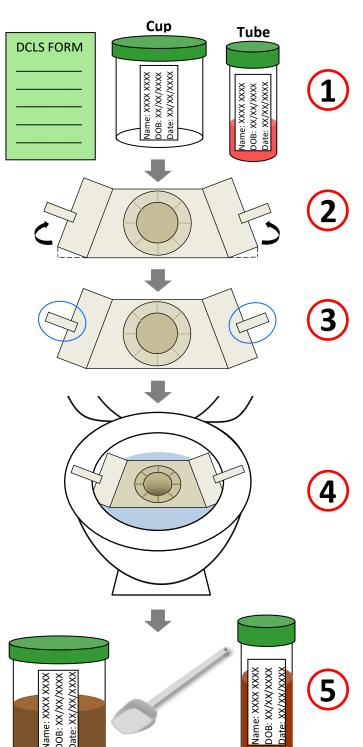
A. Patient information box		B. Patient Medical History Box	C. Top of back page
1. Your name 4.	Gender	<ol> <li>Symptoms experienced</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Your name</li> </ol>
	Address Race/ethnicity	<ol><li>Date that symptoms began (onset date)</li></ol>	2. Date of birth

- 2. Using a pen or marker, write your name, date of birth, and the date of collection on the labels provided and place the labels on both the empty cup and tube containing red liquid.
- 3. Be sure to urinate before collecting the stool sample so that you do not get any urine in the stool sample. Do not urinate while passing the stool. Do not mix water, toilet paper, or soap with the stool sample.
- 4. Stool may contain germs that spread infection. Be sure to wash your hands before and after collecting the stool.
- 5. Put the paper stool collection device on a flat surface with the labeled surface up and then fold the side flaps up.
- 6. Peel the backing off of the adhesive tape on both sides of the collection device.
- 7. Attach the exposed tape to the top of the toilet seat. Ensure that the collection device is hanging below the toilet seat.
- 8. Gently push down the center of the collection device to make a bowl-shape. Have a bowel movement into the bowl of the collection device. DO NOT urinate into the collection device.
- 9. Use the disposable scoop provided in the kit or the scoop attached to the inside of the tube with red liquid to transfer stool into the empty cup. Only scoop stool from the collection device. DO NOT scoop the stool out of the toilet bowl. Fill the container ½ to ¾ full. DO NOT OVERFILL. Close the lid tightly.
- 10. Place the cup containing the stool in the large pocket of a plastic sample bag next to the absorbent pad. Remove the backing to expose the adhesive tape and press the blue adhesive ribbon to seal the bag closed.
- 11. Use the disposable scoop provided in the kit or the scoop inside the lid of the tube with red liquid to transfer stool into the tube with the red liquid. Fill the container until the liquid level comes up to the "fill line" on the container. Close the lid tightly and shake well. Place the tube containing the red liquid containing stool in the large pocket of a second plastic sample bag next to the absorbent pad. Remove the backing to expose the strip and press the blue adhesive ribbon to seal the bag closed.
- 12. Put the 2 plastic bags containing stool together in the third plastic sample bag. Insert the completed green submission form into the front pocket of the outer bag and fold the flap to secure.
- 13. Remove the paper dish holding the remaining stool by lifting up at its four attachment points. Flush the dish and the remaining stool.
- 14. Remove the cardboard part of the collection device. Place the cardboard part of the collection device and the disposable spoon into the trash. **Wash your hands thoroughly**.

## Packaging, Storage, and Pick-up:

- 1. The bag with the 2 stool samples must be refrigerated until the samples are ready for pickup by the health department. **DO NOT FREEZE THE SAMPLES.**
- 2. Contact your local health department when samples are ready to be picked up or if you have questions regarding sample collection or storage.

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- Fill out the appropriate sections of the DCLS Clinical Microbiology/Virology Request form.
- Label both containers with your name, date of birth, and the sample collection date.

2 Lay the collection device on a flat surface with the labeled surface up and then fold the side flaps up.

**Peel the backing off of the adhesive tape** on both sides of the collection device (in blue circles).

- Insert collection device into the toilet bowl toward the back of the bowl. Attach exposed tape to the top of the toilet seat. The collection device should be hanging below the toilet seat.
- Push down on the paper in the center of the collection device to create a bowl.
- Have a bowel movement into the dish. DO NOT urinate into the bowl.
- Using the disposable scoop provided in the kit, transfer stool from the dish of the collection device into the empty cup. Fill the container ½ to ¾ full. Do not overfill. Close lid tightly.
- Using the same scoop, transfer stool from the bowl of the collection device into the tube with the red liquid. Fill to the "fill line" on the tube.
   Do not overfill. Close lid tightly and shake well.
- Place the sample cup containing only stool into the large pocket of a plastic sample bag. Remove the strip to expose the adhesive and press the blue ribbon to seal. Ensure that no air is trapped in the bag.
- Place the tube containing the red liquid containing stool in a separate sample bag.
- Put the 2 sealed bags with the stool samples together in the third plastic sample bag. Insert the completed **green DCLS form** into the front pocket of the outer bag and fold the flap to secure.
- Refrigerate the bag containing the stool samples. **DO NOT FREEZE**.
- Contact your local health department for sample pickup.

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